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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-sixth session
4-15 March 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

   (i) Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world;

   (ii) Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons, with one Vice-Chairperson having rapporteurial responsibilities.

In its resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years. The Commission will be required to elect a new Bureau at the present session. The officers elected will serve during the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions.

The membership of the Commission in 2002 is given in annex II below.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in Council resolution 2001/4.

The Commission, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action, noted that its innovative methods of work had to be understood as a process that included not only the sessions of the Commission, but also the organization of work. Broad-based participation in the preparatory process for each session of the Commission was to be encouraged, and the practice of periodically convening meetings of the Bureau of the Commission open to the participation of all interested States was to be encouraged and consolidated.

Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held meetings on 20 November and 6 December 2001 to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

It is expected that time will be set aside for a general debate.

During previous sessions, the Commission on the Status of Women allocated time for a general debate at the beginning of the session, recommended a focus for the general debate, and set aside time for interventions from non-governmental organizations. To ensure wide participation, it is recommended that individual interventions by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations be limited to 5 minutes, and interventions on behalf of groups be limited to 10 minutes, as was the case at previous sessions. At the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions, interventions from non-governmental organizations were integrated into the general debate. Non-governmental organizations will be invited to speak, with geographical location being taken into consideration. This participation in the general debate would be in

addition to the participation and statements of non-governmental organizations during each of the panels on the thematic issues.

In section III of resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council requested that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely with a focus on relevant issues and in accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987 and agreed conclusions 1995/1 adopted by the Council on 28 July 1995; that reports contain recommendations for action, indicate the actors and be issued in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored.

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/2002/L.1)

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

In section III, paragraph 5 of its resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare annually, under item 3, a report on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. Resolution 45/2 of the Commission on the Status of Women and resolution 2001/41 of the Economic and Social Council further called upon the Secretary-General to include certain information in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. In particular, the Council requested that the report assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system. The report is also submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 56/132, and previous Assembly resolutions 55/71, 54/141, 53/120, 52/100, 51/69 and 50/203. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

In section I of its resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality should inform the Commission of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination. In fulfilment of that request, the Commission will hear an oral report by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on recent changes in the subsidiary machinery of the United Nations

System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2001/2 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

In its resolution 45/1, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of that resolution for submission to the Commission at its forty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2001/3 on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission at its forty-sixth session a report on progress made in implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Joint work plan on the human rights of women

In its resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the then Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women of the plans at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995. In its resolution 2001/50, the Commission on Human Rights requested that the Secretary-General ensure the implementation of the joint work plan, and continue to elaborate that plan, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify where obstacles/impediments existed and areas for further collaboration, and to make it available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the joint work plan.

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

In its resolution 56/127 on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to monitor closely the progress made by departments and offices in meeting the goal of gender balance; and to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of that resolution, up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Violence against women

In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. It also requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on the Status of Women will be provided with such information.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions (A/56/38) and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's twenty-sixth session (14 January to 1 February 2002) will be before the Commission for its information.

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan 2002-2005

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) for subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, will be submitted to the Commission for its comments.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2002/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2002/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2002/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2002/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/82-E/CN.6/2002/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in improving the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2002/7)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2002/8)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.1)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/56/472)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions (A/56/38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/56/328)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/56/174)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council elaborated the Commission's terms of reference and, inter alia, decided that the Commission should identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon; decided that the Commission's agenda would include annually a sub-item 3 (b) on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men; and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau. The Commission also noted, bearing in mind the role of the Council in overall coordination, that increased dialogue between the Bureaux of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council, the chairpersons and secretariats, as appropriate, of the other functional commissions, other subsidiary bodies and related bodies, including the relevant executive boards, would assist in identifying issues that could be addressed under the agenda item on emerging issues and trends. No report has been requested under this sub-item.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Thematic issues

In its resolution 2001/4, the Economic and Social Council decided on the multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women for the period 2002 to 2006, including a calendar for considering implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. For 2002, two items were identified: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world; and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective. The Commission will have before it, the report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues to be addressed at its forty-sixth session, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from expert group meetings that were held on these themes.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world; and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective (E/CN.6/2002/9)

Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

In its resolution 55/71 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session with recommendations for the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through enhancing the effectiveness of its work and its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities. Based on that report, the Commission held a preliminary discussion on its working methods. In its decision 45/102 on enhancing the effectiveness of its working methods, the Commission on the Status of Women decided, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, in particular its annex II, to request its Bureau to undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the preparatory work necessary for a further discussion of the working methods of the Commission at its forty-sixth session, building on the discussions that were held during its forty-fifth session.

It requested that adequate time be allocated to discussion of this matter during the forty-sixth session of the Commission. The Commission's attention is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 on improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Council, and the following documents before the Commission under item 5: E/CN.6/2002/7 and E/CN.6/2002/8. No further report was requested for consideration of this issue.

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/8)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 45/103, the Commission on the Status of Women, having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted at its forty-fifth session assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2001/12) and the views expressed in this regard by Member States, requested the Secretary-General to submit another report on the communications procedure of the Commission and ways and means to make it more effective and efficient, based, inter alia, on written opinions of Member States and taking into account discussions at the forty-fifth session of the Commission. The comprehensive report, which may contain recommendations, was to be submitted in a timely manner prior to the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/S.W. Communications List No. 36)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.38)

Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/12)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

In a letter dated 8 October 2001 addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission, the President of the Economic and Social Council drew attention to the outcome of the 2001 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council requiring specific follow-up by the Commission. Attention was drawn to the policy recommendations contained in the selected resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council, in particular resolutions 2001/21, 2001/27, 2001/39, 2001/41, and decisions 2001/299 and 2001/304. Attention was also drawn to the Ministerial Declaration of the high-

level segment of the substantive session of 2001 (A/56/3, chap. III, para. 29) and to the agreed conclusions adopted at its coordination segment (ibid., chap. V, para. 7).

The President invited the Chairperson to bring these policy recommendations to the attention of the Commission and to take necessary action to implement them.

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on steps already taken by the Commission to implement the Economic and Social Council's policy decisions, on possible further actions to be taken by the Commission and on recommendations the Commission may wish to address to the Council in this regard.

Documentation

Letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to policy guidance provided by the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/11)

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), and in accordance with Council resolution 2001/4, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-seventh session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its forty-sixth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

4 to 15 March 2002

Date/time	*Agenda item*	
Monday, 4 March		
a.m.		*Opening of the session*
	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
		Appointment of members of working group on communications
		Introduction of reports followed by dialogue
	Item 3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": general discussion*
p.m.	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion
Tuesday, 5 March		
a.m.	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion
p.m.	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion
Wednesday, 6 March		
a.m.	Item 3 (c)	Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world
p.m.	Item 3 (c)	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
		Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective
		Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
Thursday, 7 March		
a.m.	Item 4	Communications concerning the status of women
		Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General assessing implications of reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area for communications procedure
p.m.	Item 5	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions
		Discussion

Date/time	*Agenda item*	
Friday, 8 March		
a.m.		Observance of International Women's Day, followed by:
	Item 3 (c)	Consideration of working methods of the Commission
p.m.	Item 3 (c)	Continuation of consideration of working methods of the Commission
	Item 3 (c)	Informal consultations on thematic issues before the Commission
Monday, 11 March		
a.m.	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
p.m.	All items	Introduction of proposals under all items, including provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission, followed by informal consultations
Tuesday, 12 March		
a.m.	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
p.m.	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 13 March		
a.m.	Item 4	Closed meeting of the Commission to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications, followed by:
	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
p.m.	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
Thursday, 14 March		
a.m.	Items 3 and 5	Informal consultations
p.m.	Items 3 and 5	Action on proposals and on proposed agreed conclusions followed by informal consultations
Friday, 15 March		
a.m.	All items	Action on outstanding issues
p.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session
		Closure of the session

* Please refer to the provisional annotated agenda for the full list of documents under this agenda item.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2002

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires on 31 December*
Argentina	2004
Azerbaijan	2004
Belgium	2002
Benin	2003
Botswana	2005
Brazil	2003
Burkina Faso	2005
Burundi	2002
Chile	2003
China	2003
Croatia	2003
Cuba	2005
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2002
Denmark	2003
Dominican Republic	2003
Egypt	2002
Gabon	2005
Germany	2004
Guatemala	2005
Guinea	2004
Indonesia	2005
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2005
Italy	2002
Japan	2004
Kyrgyzstan	2003

Membership	*Term expires on 31 December*
Lithuania	2002
Malawi	2003
Malaysia	2005
Mexico	2002
Mongolia	2002
Netherlands	2004
Nicaragua	2005
Pakistan	2004
Peru	2004
Republic of Korea	2005
Russian Federation	2002
Senegal	2002
South Africa	2005
Sudan	2005
Tunisia	2004
Turkey	2002
United Arab Emirates	2005
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2004
United Republic of Tanzania	2004
United States of America	2003